

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended): A method of forming a sealed container package which comprises:

providing a container having a container opening defined by a rim of the container;

providing a sealing sheet material across the container opening and removably securing the sealing sheet material to the container rim;

forming a recessed portion in the sealing sheet material ~~whereby~~ ~~at least~~ after the sealing sheet material has been secured to the container rim such that the recessed portion projects into the container opening; and

attaching a reclosable lid to the container rim after the sealing sheet material has been secured to the rim and the recessed portion has been formed, wherein a portion of [,] the lid projecting projects into the recessed portion of the sealing sheet material within the container opening.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the recessed portion is cold formed or thermoformed.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the thermoforming is carried out by engaging the sealing sheet material with a former to form the recessed portion in the sealing sheet material.
20. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein at least part of the sealing sheet material is heated before the former is engaged with the sealing sheet material.
21. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein at least part of the sealing sheet material is heated at the same time as or after the former is engaged with the sealing sheet material.
22. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the recessed portion of the sealing sheet material is ~~at least~~ partly formed before the sealing sheet material is secured to the container rim.
23. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the recessed portion of the sealing sheet material is at least partly formed at the same time as or after the sealing sheet material is secured to the container rim.
24. (original) A method according to claim 23, wherein the sealing sheet material is not drawn across the container rim as the recessed portion is formed.
25. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the sealing sheet material is a thermoformable film and the action of heating the

film for thermoforming also initiates the bonding of the film to the container rim.

26. (original) A method according to claim 25, wherein the thermoformable film is a polymeric film and the heating of the film softens it such that it can be heat sealed to the container rim.

27. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the heating of the sealing sheet material activates an adhesive or sealing layer on the sealing sheet material.

28. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the sheet sealing material is cut or shaped prior to being secured to the container rim.

29. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the sheet sealing material is cut or shaped during and/or after being secured to the container rim.

30. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the sealing sheet material is removably secured to an upper end face of the container rim.